



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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Idaho 2007 Potato Crop Revised Down; Idaho 2008 Sugarbeet Production Down

Final disposition numbers show Idaho's 2007 potato crop totalling 130 million cwt, a decrease of 1.2 percent from earlier estimates, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Field run yield of 373 cwt is 4 cwt less than the previous estimate and 13 cwt less than the 2006 crop's record yield. Harvested area for the 2007 crop was 349,000 acres, unchanged from the previous estimate. For the 2008 potato crop, preliminary data from the Potato Objective Yield Survey shows that the Russet Burbank variety accounts for 57.9 percent of the potato acreage planted in Idaho. Ranger Russets account for 15.2 percent of plantings, and Russet Norkotah is 12.8 percent of the total. Western Russet, at 2.5 percent, and Shepody, at 2.2 percent, complete the top five varieties planted in Idaho for the 2008 crop.

Nationally, production of 2007 fall potatoes is finalized at 408 million cwt, 2 percent above the 2006 crop, and 6 percent higher than 2005. Final production of potatoes from all four seasons in 2007 totalled 447 million cwt, up 1 percent from 2006 and 5 percent above 2005.

Idaho's 2008 sugarbeet production is forecast to be 3.57 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast, but down 38 percent from a year ago. Yield of 30.5 tons per acre is down from 2007's record high 34.4 tons per acre. Harvested acreage is expected to total 117,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from 2007.

United States' sugarbeet production for 2008 is forecast at 26.1 million tons, 3 percent below the August forecast and 18 percent below last year's production of 31.9 million tons. Growers expect to harvest 1.06 million acres, down 15 percent from last year. The yield is forecast at 24.7 tons per acre, down 0.9 tons from 2007.

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